

**Kentucky Board of Education Report**  
**Commissioner Gene Wilhoit**  
**For**  
**January 30, 2006 Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting**

**December 7-8, 2005 Kentucky Board of Education Highlights:**

- **State Board Supports Publishing of Administration Guidelines For Writing Instruction** -- As one way to improve instructional practices in writing and reduce inappropriate practices, the Kentucky Board of Education agreed at the December meeting that the “Administration Guidelines for Writing Instruction” could have the word “Draft” removed and that the document could be officially released to schools following a few final edits, one of which is to clarify the amount of time spent on writing portfolios. The Board also asked that Department staff add a “Question and Answer” document, clarifying what is appropriate versus what is not appropriate relative to the writing assessment, as an accompanying piece to the Administration Guidelines.

As part of the professional development opportunities on appropriate writing practices, Department staff showed excerpts from a newly produced video program titled “Writing Portfolio Update: Administration Guidelines for Writing Instruction.” The Board learned that it was shown over KET 3, November 28 through December 15, so that schools could tape it for training purposes.

- **Board Supports Approach to Intervene in Low-Performing Schools and Districts and Those With Significant Achievement Gaps** -- The Kentucky Board of Education indicated its support of the Kentucky Department of Education’s approach to create more direct intervention and support for low-performing schools and districts and those with significant achievement gaps. The goal is to have systemic improvement plans implemented with school, district, local board and Department personnel collaborating intensively for improved student performance.

The interventions will become effective in fall 2006. A voluntary, targeted assistance team approach was recommended by the Department. The team would be made up of the local superintendent, an assigned superintendent mentor from the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, a representative of the Kentucky School Boards Association, a Highly Skilled Educator, and a Kentucky Department of Education administrator. The team would be charged with developing and implementing a district/school improvement plan tailored to the district’s and school’s specific needs.

The districts that will be targeted for this intervention are moving toward Tiers 3, 4 or 5 under *No Child Left Behind*.

- **Regulations On Refocusing Secondary Education To Come Back For Final Action In February** -- After in-depth discussions on 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum Requirements for High School Graduation, and 704 KAR 3:340, Commonwealth Diploma Program, the Kentucky Board of Education chose to postpone final action until the February 1-2 meeting. Additionally, issues within these regulations will be the focus of the Board's January 4, 2006, meeting.

**January 4, 2006 Kentucky Board of Education Highlights:**

- **Consideration of 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum Requirements For High School Graduation** -- The Kentucky Board of Education agreed on the following guidance relative to language in this regulation and asked that it be brought back for final approval to the February 1-2 meeting:
  - Designate the effective implementation date for the new requirements as 2012.
  - Require Algebra II as a requirement for all students.
  - Allow an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary or technical/occupational course that prepares a student for a career path based on the student's individual graduation plan to be substituted for a traditional Algebra II course on an individual student basis if it meets the same standards as defined in the Program of Studies.
  - Require mathematics every year of high school.
  - Reference the specific courses of English I, II, III and IV but not include a required sequence for the courses.
  - Include language to clarify that the content of U.S. History continues to be an important component of social studies.
  - Develop the capacity for the opportunity to learn a world language by 2012 through working with partners and move toward the goal of students demonstrating competency by 2016. This will not yet be included as a minimum high school graduation requirement.
  - Request that Department staff provide clarification at the February 1-2 meeting on the role of the IEP relative to high school graduation requirements.
- **Consideration of 704 KAR 3:340, Commonwealth Diploma** -- Due to significant issues yet to be resolved and the need for further analysis of this program, the Board voted to table the regulation until the analysis could be completed and different recommendations could be brought back to the Board.

**Upcoming Agenda Items for the February 1-2, 2006 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting Include:**

- 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum Requirements for High School Graduation (Final)
- 702 KAR 7:125, Pupil attendance (Final)
- 703 KAR 5:010, Writing portfolio procedures (Review)
- 703 KAR 5:140, Requirements for school and district report cards (Final)

- 704 KAR 3:530, Mathematics Achievement Fund and 704 KAR 3:490, Teacher's Professional Growth Fund (Review)
- Update on assessment contract